

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please amend the paragraph beginning on line 7 of page 1 as follows:

The present invention relates to a method for charging a fee for the use of network resources, a method for allotting network resources, and a system for allotting network resources. More particularly, the invention relates to a method and a system which are useful for an internet service provider (referred to as "ISP" hereinafter) to allot ~~their~~ its network resources to a plurality of web site proprietors (private persons and business enterprises), and are also useful for a call center service provider to allot ~~their~~ its telephone network resources to a plurality of interactive voice response service proprietors (referred to as "IVR proprietor" hereinafter), and a method for charging web site proprietors or IVR proprietors the fee for the use of the digital network resources or telephone network resources.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on line 21 of page 2 as follows:

Now, according to the art of this kind, both of the web site proprietor and the IVR proprietor can make use of the network resources (basic network resources) as ~~far~~ long as its amount is within a range defined according to the contract settled initially. But when external excessive accesses, so-called ~~an access peak has~~ access peaks have once happened even temporarily, they can not deal with the access ~~peak~~ peaks any more. Therefore, in order to obviate inconvenience due to such temporary access ~~peak~~ peaks, there would be no way but securing the amount of network resources capable of at least covering the access ~~peak~~ peaks as

expected at the time of initially settling the contract. However, even if the network resources are adequately prepared against such access ~~peak~~ peaks, a considerable part of the network resources could not help being kept in the idle state in such a time zone that less or no access is made. In spite of the ineffective use of the network resources like this, the web site proprietor and the IVR proprietor have to uniformly pay the fee for all the network resources purchased according to the contract, regardless of that they work or sleep. This is apparently neither reasonable nor advantageous to the web site proprietor and the IVR proprietor as well.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on line 14 of page 3 as follows:

Another object of the invention is to provide a novel and improved method for charging a reasonable fee for the use of the network resources, which is capable of flexibly responding to the variation in the amount of the network resources the information provider terminal wishes to use.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on line 9 of page 11 as follows:

The ISP system 1 is able to give the optional condition to the web site proprietors when charging them the fee for the use of the basic network capacity of the digital network 3. This optional condition includes of a preferential option and a non-preferential option. The preferential option is the option that allows one web site proprietor to preferentially use a part of the basic network capacity or its entirety thereof for the other web site proprietor terminal. The

non-preferential option is the option which corresponds to the preferential option, and allows the other web site proprietor terminal to preferentially use a part of the basic network capacity or its entirety thereof for one web site proprietor terminal.